

Message Text

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13

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCI-06 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-13 EUR-25 TRSE-00

EB-11 OMB-01 COME-00 IGA-02 XMB-07 DRC-01 /195 W

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R 141200Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3195

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 5366

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, TS

SUBJECT: TUNISIAN EMBASSY DEMARCHE ON AID MATTERS

REF: STATE 175967

1. FOLLOWING COMMENTS ARE OFFERED ON REMARKS TO ASST. SECY. NEWSOM BY TUNISIAN AMBASSADOR EL GOULLI ON AUG. 31 REGARDING ECONOMIC AID MATTERS (PARAS 2 AND 5 REFTEL). THESE COULD BE BASIS FOR RESPONSE TO EL GOULLI TO EXTENT DEPT. BELIEVES FUTHER RESPONSE REQUIRED.

2. LATEST EMBASSY/USAID POSIION ON POSSIBLE JOINT COMMISSION ON ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE CONVEYED TO GOT SEPT. 5 (TUNIS 5237). DEPT. MAY WISH GIVE EL GOULLI COPY OF EMBASSY REPLY.

3. EMBASSY ON VARIOUS OCCASIONS (INCLUDING A LETTER TO CABINET OFFICE OF APRIL 2 BEING POUCHED AF/N) HAS INDICATED TO GOT DIFFICULTY OF FINANCING EXPANSION OF RADIO STATION THROUGH AID FUNDS. AT SAME TIME, IT HAS SEVERAL TIMES OFFERED TO HAVE US TECHNICIAN EXAMINE EXISITING FACILITIES AND ASSIST IN PLANNING THEIR IMPROVE-
MENT. MEMORANDUM SUBMITTED TO DEPT. BY TUNISIAN COUNSELOR
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GHEZAL INDICATES GOT HAS MADE SOME PROGRESS TOWARD

REFINING RADIO PROJECTS SINCE MATTER DISCUSSED BY EL GOULLI IN JANUARY (DEPT 016807). THIS MEMORANDUM STILL CANNOT BE CONSIDERED FULL TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, HOWEVER, AND DOES NOT AFFECT BASIC FACT THAT US GRANT AID UNDER AID NOT JUSTIFIED FOR RADIO PROJECTS ALTHOUGH USG COULD EXTEND EXPORT FINANCING THROUGH EXIM BANK AND PROVIDE TECHNICAL ADVICE.

4. PAUCITY OF DETAILS REGARDING POSSIBLE MEDICAL FACILITY AND LABORATORY AT SFAX SUBMITTED TO DEPT. BY GHEZAL CONFIRMS OUR IMPRESSION THAT GOT PLANS RE SFAX PROJECT STILL IN PRELIMINARY STAGE. GOT HAS NOT SUBMITTED FORMAL PROJECT PROPOSAL HERE FOR US AID NOR EVEN INDICATED OFFICIALLY THAT SUCH AID REQUIRED. CONVERSATIONS WITH INTERESTED OFFICIALS HERE HAVE ELICITED INFORMATION ABOUT HOPES OF SOME TECHNICIANS RE SFAX MEDICAL FACULTY BUT IN GENERAL TERMS. WE HESITATE TO ACTIVELY SEEK MORE DETAILS FOR FEAR OF SHOWING TOO MUCH INTEREST AND ELICITING A PREMATURE AID REQUEST. ALSO RECALL THAT TUNISIAN EMBASSY COUNSELOR GHEZAL NEVER FOLLOWED UP ON SUGGESTION BY SCI IN FEBRUARY THAT ONE OR TWO AMERICAN EXPERTS MIGHT COME TO TUNISIA TO HELP GOT DEFINE PROJECT MORE COMPLETELY (STATE 020863).

5. SUGGEST THAT DEPT. RESPOND TO RECENT GHEZAL AND EL GOULLI INQUIRIES RE SFAX FACILITY BY POINTING OUT THAT IF DIFFICULT FOR USG TO RESPOND TO REQUEST FOR AID FOR SFAX MEDICAL FACULTY IN VIEW OF STILL PRELIMINARY NATURE OF PROJECT. MAY ALSO POINT OUT THAT USAID TUNIS. GOT AND CARE/MEDICO ARE CURRENTLY REVIEWING CARE/MEDICO PROPOSAL SEND TEAM TO DEVELOP MATERNITY AND FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES AT SFAX REGIONAL HOSPITAL. THIS LATTER PROPOSAL IS MORE CLOSELY RELATED TO USAID OBJECTIVE IN TUNISIA. ALTHOUGH USAID TUNIS WOULD BE WILLING TO CONSIDER WELL-CONCEIVED AND DOCUMENTED REQUEST, OUR PRELIMINARY OPINION IS THAT PROPOSED NEUROPSYCHIATRY AND GASTRO-ENTEROLOGY FACILITIES FOR SFAX WOULD HAVE LOWER PRIORITY THAN OTHER DEMANDS (E.G. FAMILY PLANNING) FOR SCARCE AID FUNDS. DEPT. COULD RENEW ITS OFFER TO ARRANGE FOR ONE OR TWO TECHNICIANS TO HELP IN DEFINING SPECIFICS
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OF PROJECT AND SUGGEST PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS WHICH TUNISIAN EMBASSY COULD ALSO APPROACH FOR POSSIBLE HELP.
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Message Attributes

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